GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:136
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
DRYING UP OF SOURCES OF RIVERS
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for drying up of sources of rivers in the country;

(b) the names of States which are on dispute due to said reasons;

(c) the reasons for checking the water flow of Indravati river of Bastar by Orissa as a result of which the sources in Bastar aredrying up;

(d) whether any ecological study has been conducted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) The drying up of rivers depends on various factors such as the condition of rainfall in the catchment area during the preceeding monsoon. The rivers which are not perennial or snow-fed and which are not recharged by ground water acquifiers, are likely to dry up in the lean or low weather flow season. However, over-exploitation/less recharge of ground water, resulting in lowering of the water tables, also dries up the rivers. Construction of dams impounding the lean weather flows in the reservoir is also one of the causes. The National Water Policy, 2002 provides that minimum flow should be ensured in the perennial streams for maintaining ecology and social consideration.

(b) There are water disputes, between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry.

(c) As per the agreement between Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, the Stateof Orissa shall ensure 45 thousand million cubic foot of water to flow down at the Orissa and Madhya Pradesh border in the Indravati Sub-basin.As the monthly quantum has not been specified there has been difference of opinion between the Government of Chattisgarhand Government of Orissa with regard to montly distribution of annual flows and construction of diversion structure across Jura Nallah and main Indravati.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Central Government is making all efforts to amicably resolve the issue with the cooperation of the State Governments.